



Join/Support

November 2021

The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn



Greetings!

Happy Autumn!

We are thankful for our Board of Directors and members who continue to work in creative ways to reach out to the wider community. As we enter into the 21st month of the pandemic, we are trying new ways to communicate. We have begun hybrid Community Meetings providing in-person and interactive live streaming.

Our recent October Community Meeting, “Be Vocal, Vote Local,” provided interesting information about local politics participation in general and both the history and current operations of the Civic Betterment Party. This was a great base to start the Civic Betterment Party (CBP) Study headed up by Carrie Burrows and Sonja Faulkner. The LWVGE Position on the CBP was last studied in 2008.

We were pleased to have our October meeting co-hosted by *Glen Ellyn Newcomers & Neighbors* and our upcoming November meeting with author Rebecca Sive in partnership with LWV Wheaton. Collaboration with other civic organizations strengthens each of us.



**Honorable Mention
Winner:
Athena Demokratia
with designer,
Lynn Bruno**

Everyone should have received their 2021-2022 Membership Books. If not, contact Membership Chair Judy Gervase at jbgervase@yahoo.com.

Many thanks to Lynn Bruno for the design of this year's Membership Book; thanks also for her wonderful creation of "Athena" (Goddess of Justice) "Demokratia" (Greek for 'power to the people') that was on display as part of Glen Ellyn's 2021 Scarecrow Row. And Athena wowed us with an Honorable Mention win!

If you haven't sent in your donation for our Fall fundraiser, it's not too late. Every dollar helps LWVGE continue providing important Community Programs, Candidate Forums, Voter Education and Services. Thanks for your support.

Our holiday fundraiser and celebration will be on Thursday, December 2. We encourage everyone to shop at *Ten Thousand Villages*, 503 Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Glen Ellyn, where a percentage of sales will be received by the LWVGE. This year's holiday celebration will be held at Sarah Allen's home (822 Abbey Drive, Glen Ellyn). We also welcome new members to an orientation at Sarah's home before the holiday celebration. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Shopping at *Ten Thousand Villages* 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

New Member Orientation 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Member Holiday Celebration 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Annual Program Planning meeting, scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2022, where we will discuss the type of programs needed for the upcoming year. This year will include a review of the LWVUS positions.

We wish you and your families happy holidays and look forward to 2022 being another dynamic year for our League. We will certainly be busy!

Working to Empower Voters,
Sarah Allen and Michelle Thorsell, Co-Presidents

[Visit Our Website](#)



National Voter Registration day at COD on September 28 saw members Bonnie Wheatley, Carrie Burrows, Donna Jean Simon and Mary Sue Brown on hand to register local students. LWVGE was also present that day at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, where smiling members Jean Tufano and Judy Gervase posed, and enrolled new voters.

LWVGE REPRESENTED AT DUPAGE COUNTY

The LWVGE, along with our DuPage sister Leagues (Wheaton, Naperville, Downers Grove, Lisle/Woodridge, Roselle/Bloomingtondale, Elmhurst, and Aurora) have continued to closely monitor DuPage County Board meetings. Two County agenda items and a court-ordered partial recount kept us busy.

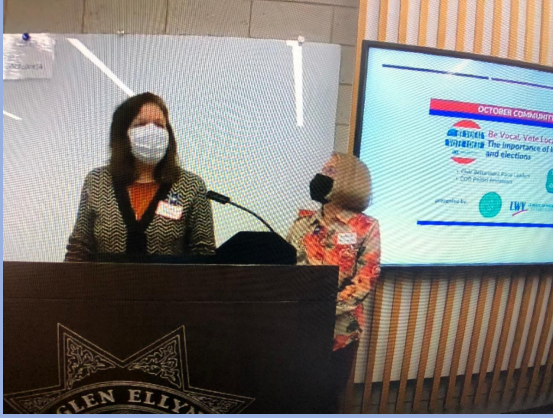
Purchase of secure voting equipment: Thank you to members for connecting with County Board members (as constituents) prior to the September 14 County Board Meeting in support of the purchase of new secure voting equipment. Although the approval by the County Board failed, the LWV continued voicing the urgency to purchase new equipment in a timely manner and, after a quick rebidding process, on October 25, the County Board approved the purchase of new secure voting equipment (Hart System) for DuPage County that meets the requirements set forth in HR1.

Revisions to County District Maps: In August, the public comment period began on the redrawing of the DuPage County District Maps. Thanks to DuPage County Board Observer Dave Evans for observing the first Open House to learn what the upcoming process would be. Mid-October, the redrawn District Maps, based upon data from the 2020 Census, were on display both on the County website and in the County Board Room for a three-day Open House. Thanks to Karin Daly for getting this information out quickly to members. The LWVGE and DuPage Sister Leagues were represented at the Open House and at the October 26 County Board meeting to support the approval of the new District Maps. The County Board voted to approve the re-drawn DuPage County District Maps; many DuPage County Board members thanked the LWV for monitoring the process.

Partial Recount from November 2020 election: After a DuPage County court review of a sample of ballots for the November 2020 DuPage County Auditor election, the judge ordered a partial recount. This included (1) a review of Election Day in-person ballots to verify election judge initials were placed on the ballots and (2) a review of mail-in ballot envelopes to verify postmark dates and voter signatures. A number of LWVGE members trained and received credentials as Pollwatchers and prepared for observation during an anticipated three-week process. The partial recount began on October 4 and ended on October 6 due to the efficiency of the Election Division staff and election judges. attorneys and Election Division staff met on October 8, with LWVGE & DuPage sister Leagues observing, to review the results. A report will be prepared for the judge to review at a hearing scheduled for November 8. The LWVGE will continue to monitor this activity to verify that the process is transparent and to make sure every vote counts.

Submitted by Sarah Allen & Michelle Thorsell, Co-Presidents

Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered for the October meeting, "Be Vocal, Vote Local." Many questions were asked, and we all learned more about the Civic Betterment Party. This will be a good starting point for the upcoming study of our current local Village position, "Glen Ellyn Selection of Village and Library Board Officers (2008)."



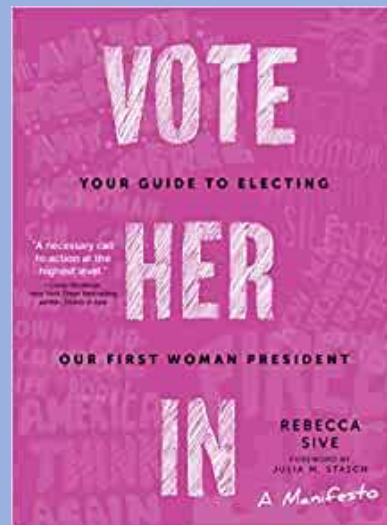
LWVGE Co-president, Michelle Thorsell welcomes attendees to the October Community Meeting, "Be Vocal, Vote Local."



College of DuPage Political Science Associate Professor Melissa Mouritsen discusses the significance of local voting to a receptive audience.



Next Community Meeting Thursday, November 18



Our next event is Thursday, November 18, and it is a virtual event in partnership with LWV Wheaton via the Cantigny Civic Awareness Series.

To attend, you must register here:

<https://cantigny.org/event/virtual-civic-awareness-series-author-rebecca-sive/>

All area Leagues will be invited to this event (Warrenville, West Chicago, Winfield, Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, and Carol Stream) with Rebecca Sive, author of the 2018 book, *Vote Her In: Your Guide to Electing Our First Woman President*. Sive examines women's influence in the American political process. She is the author of three books on American women's politics and power, a motivational speaker, experienced media analyst, and admired women's leadership strategist. She is a past faculty member of the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and a statewide governmental official.

Questions for Rebecca Sive may be submitted to **blaimins@gmail.com**.

Submitted by Jodi Baltimore, VP Programs

**DETAILS: Thursday,
December 2 from 5:00-
8:00 pm shopping at Ten**



Our members hard at work this summer celebrating LWV (and American) history! The Glen Ellyn League continues to grow.

New Member Orientation Alert

Each year LWVGE celebrates the holidays with a fundraiser through purchases made at *Ten Thousand Villages* in Glen Ellyn during the 5:00-8:00 pm hours. Afterward we gather at a member's home to party!

This year we are adding a New Member Orientation to the evening, from 6:00-7:00 pm. We would LOVE to see you there! We will present an overview of our League's goals and work, followed by a Q & A. Afterward we will join the party. We look forward to meeting you all in person and to giving you a chance to meet our other members, and to learn more about the League.

Submitted by Judy Gervase, Membership

**Thousand Villages, 503
Pennsylvania Ave., Glen
Ellyn**

**From 6:00-7:00 pm New
Member Orientation at
Sarah Allen's home.**

**6:30 - 8:30 pm Holiday
Gathering, also at Sarah
Allen's home**

**Please RSVP for the
Orientation to
jbgervase@yahoo.com
or call or text (630)
291-0269.**

Observer Corps

The LWVGE now has nine members observing seven different local boards. They are providing a valuable service as the eyes and ears of the league. The next Zoom training session is Thursday, January 6, from 7:00-8:00 pm. Even if you don't plan to become an observer, this session is well worth attending as it gives insights to the workings of local boards. Contact me if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

Submitted by Carrie Burrows, Local Government

Membership Update

Welcome to our newest members:

Robert and Teresa Blair
1S235 Lloyd Avenue
Lombard 60148
reblair@gmail.com
teresablair@gmail.com

630-495-3936

Rita Boserup
3S208 Mulberry Lane
Glen Ellyn 60137
rboserup@sbcglobal.net
630-220-9508

Paula McGowen
1N443 Park Blvd
Glen Ellyn 60137
630-334-3909

We now have 194 members. Add them to your membership handbook. Welcome new members - we are glad to have you with us!

Additionally there is a new address for a current member:

Tayyaba Syed
1767 Marion Court
Wheaton 60187
Submitted by Judy Gervase, Membership

Fall Finance Drive

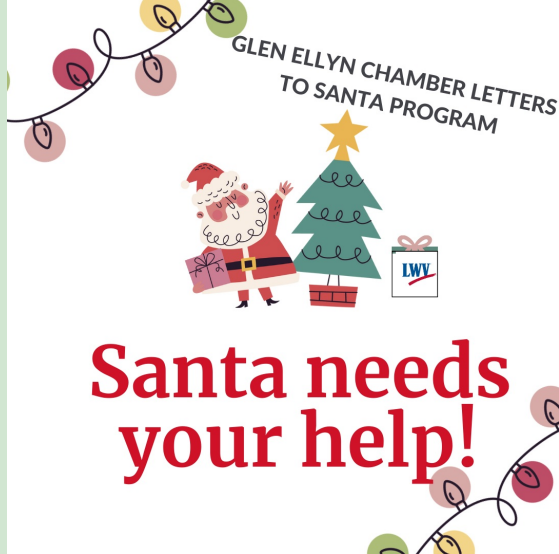
Our fall finance drive is underway, and thanks to all of you who have already sent in donations. Our fall fundraising drive is very important to the LWVGE. As you may or may not know, most of our annual dues are passed on to the State and National Leagues to support their programs and initiatives. The monies raised during this drive are used to pay for our local initiatives such as providing timely and valuable voter information, holding community meetings, sponsoring candidate forums and supporting our many local initiatives.

You can either donate to the LWVGE directly, and/or you can make a donation to the LWWIL Education Fund designated for the Glen Ellyn League. A donation to the LWWIL Education fund is deductible as a charitable contribution, and the check must be made payable to: LWWIL Education Fund. All checks should be sent to Judy Kinn, LWVGE Treasurer, P.O. Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138 by December 31, 2021.

Thank you again for your donations and for supporting the LWVGE!
Submitted by Judith Kinn, LWVGE Treasurer

Holiday Help Wanted!

Want to help spread cheer this holiday season? The League is in need of about 20 volunteers to answer children's letters as part of the Chamber's Letter to Santa program. The timing will be the second and third weeks of December and we are asking each volunteer to do 10-15 letters. Everything is included: Santa photo (that you will sign and write a short



personal message as Santa), Santa letter (pre-printed), envelopes and stamps. You will pick up your kit and packet of letters from Karin Daly's porch and then mail letters directly. To sign up, please email info@lwvg.org and we will reach out with more specifics. Ho Ho Ho!

Submitted by Karin Daly, VP Communications

Environmental Update

LWVGE is a member of two inter-league environmentally focused organizations, the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region (LWVUMRR) and the LWV Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR). Each of these inter-league organizations was established to address issues best understood on a regional level and that transcend political boundaries. This is especially true for water issues. Each October these two groups conduct their annual programs and meetings.



LWV Upper Mississippi River Region, October 4

This year the LWVUMRR focused on PFAS with a presentation on “*Should You Drink That? The Unfolding Story of PFAS in Our Lives*”. Speakers included Jeff Lamont, retired hydrogeologist who works with SOH20 (Save Our H2O) to ensure safe drinking water for residents in Northern Wisconsin; Erika Schreder, Science Director Toxic-Free Future who writes on toxic chemicals and their presence in people and products and alternatives; and Deanna White, MN Director, Clean Water Action, who coordinates EPA and state interactions for policy and legislation.

References and concern for PFAS or “Perfluoroalkyl & Polyfluoroalkyl compounds” has recently been elevated by many organizations and has become a priority for the Biden administration under the direction of Michael Ragan, EPA Administrator. PFAS refers to more than 4000 man-made chemicals that are often called “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment. Exposure to these PFAS chemicals has been linked to certain cancers and has been devastating to many communities across the USA for decades. PFAS chemicals have become ubiquitous in consumer products because they are resistant to heat, stains, water, and grease. Efforts are underway to get PFAS out of the marketplace and replace with safer alternatives. There is focus on removing these chemicals from cosmetics, carpets, spray treatments, kids’ products, food packaging and fire fighter gear and equipment.

Water sources have and continue to be contaminated by PFAS chemicals. While efforts are underway to restrict PFAS in drinking water to not exceed 70 parts per million, there is

no enforcement and some environmentalists believe there are no safe levels. There is debate and conflicting opinions as to what methods might be useful in the disposal of PFAS.

Incineration is one solution under consideration but remains controversial. In August Governor Pritzker vetoed a bill meant to prevent the incineration of PFAS saying the bill was overly broad and would unintentionally prohibit companies from using other types of pollution control devices. Pritzker did however sign SB561 that phases out the use of PFAS in firefighting foam. There were also concerns regarding the environmental justice impact on communities that house the incinerators; poorer communities being subject to the unknown impact of releasing incinerated chemicals into the environment.

President Biden has called for \$10 Billion in funding to address PFAS contamination.

What actions can individuals take:

- Educate yourself on PFAS science
- Encourage your favorite fast-food venues, grocery stores, cosmetic lines to stop using PFAS by letter writing campaigns. (Latest is to Burger King.) This is a bipartisan issue that impacts everyone and is a unifying issue
- Write state and national representatives to ban PFAS.

LWV Lake Michigan Region Meeting and Conference October 15-16

The focus of this year's conference was Lake Michigan shoreline erosion and pollution. Featured speakers were Joe Gruzalski, Indiana Dune National Park Ranger, on "*Bad Ass Women of the Dunes*"; Erin Argyilan, Professor of Geosciences & Dept. Chair Indiana University Northwest on "*Shoreline Erosion and Solutions*;" and Dr. Victoria Wittig, Senior Program Specialist, Save the Dunes on "*Lake Michigan Pollution and Solutions*."

The Dune Park Ranger highlighted the history of many forgotten women who fought to save the Indiana Dunes, biologists, activists, geologists, and amateur naturalists. There is actually a guided park tour that folks can take that explores, hikes, and discusses places in or near the park that shaped many of these influential women.

The Indiana Dunes have been in the news as of late due to the collapse of dunes, the disappearance of shoreline and park closures to pollution. Dr. Argyilan provided a detailed crash course in the impact of geologic history and climate change and how these are impacting the erosion and rebuilding of the sandy Lake Michigan shoreline. In some communities the shoreline is disappearing only to have eroded sand and soil to be deposited on another community along the shoreline. This evolution of the shoreline is both the result of historical trends as well as climate change. Communities negatively impacted have taken steps to save their shorelines that may actually be detrimental to other communities along the shoreline and extremely expensive. The recommendation is for communities to work together and have a better understanding of historical trends and climate change impacts

Dr. Wittig addressed the impact of both agricultural, pharmaceutical, construction waste, and even domestic waste on Lake Michigan. Advocacy efforts and initiatives are both listed on the LWVLMR website. The LWVLMR is sponsoring a Climate Change Symposium hosted by Tom Skilling in April, 2022 in Chicago. Details will be forthcoming.

Items of Interest and Note:

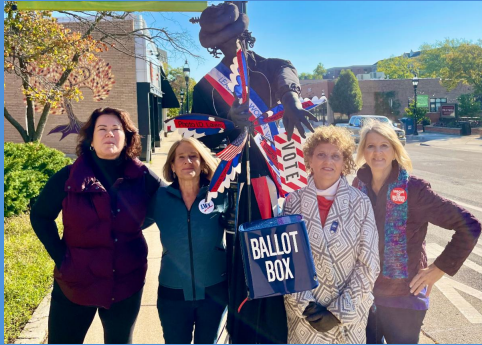
November 2 at 7:00 pm Environmental Town Hall via Zoom

Terra Costa Howard, Sen. Laura Ellman and Rep. Janet Yang Rohr to address questions on the new Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. Representatives will be there from the Sierra Club, the Illinois Environmental Council, and IBEW Local 701.

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC) of which LWVIL is a member received United Nations Global Goals Award for its efforts to support United Nations Goal #7, Affordable and Clean Energy.

April 2022 Tom Skilling sponsored Climate Change Symposium (details To be provided)
Submitted by Alexandra Darrow, Environmental Issues

From Media Relations



Nicole DeJoris, Sarah Allen, Lynn Bruno, and Karen Schulz shared the sidewalk with LWVGE's Athena Demokratia on "Scarecrow Row."

This fall's efforts of the LWVGE Media Relations team focused on National Voter Registration Day in September, our "Scarecrow Row" entry in October, and spreading the word about the upcoming virtual Community Meeting with author Rebecca Sive in November.

Much of LWVGE publicity continues to focus on social media, coordinated by VP of Communications, Karin Daly and the Communications Team of

Nicole DeJoris overseeing our website, with Karin and Nicole managing Facebook/Twitter/Instagram and myself managing print media. Having a dedicated communications team is critical and we are in NEED of someone comfortable with social media posting. A new member to LWVGE or anyone else with that skill set would be a very welcome addition to the Communications team. **Interested - please** contact Karin Daly: karindaly@gmail.com.

The best publicity is always *word of mouth*. More than ever, as Media Relations Director, I urge you to reach out to voters and guide them to our website and social media. Both have *excellent* information on voting, election information, upcoming activities, and ways to become involved with the League. LWVGE is counting on you!

Submitted by Karen Schultz, Media Relations



September 16 Community Meeting

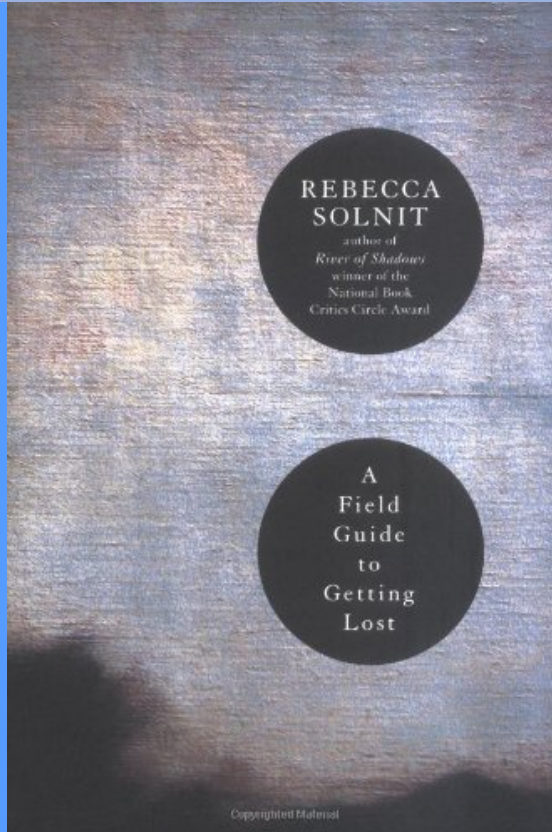
Did you miss the LWVGE Community Meeting: *A Conversation on Police Partnerships and Community Policing?* It was a great Zoom discussion with Philip Norton, Glen Ellyn Police Chief, and Theodore Darden, Professor of Justice Studies at COD. You can view it, and other past meetings, on our [You Tube](#) channel or [Facebook](#) Page.

Updating Local Civic Betterment Party 2008 Position

At our annual Program Planning meeting in January 2020, our League determined that we should review and update one of our local positions- Glen Ellyn Selection of Village and Library Board Offices (2008). This position focuses on the Civic Betterment Party (CBP) and its role in identifying and selecting candidates for Village offices (Village President, Village Trustee, Village Clerk and Library Board).

The study has had two meetings so far and hopes to present its findings in a consensus meeting by early March. The position will then be developed and presented to the membership at the annual meeting for approval.

Submitted by Carrie Burrows, Local Government



Book Club Announcement

LWVGE's next book club is Saturday, January 22 at 9 am. Location info. to come.

Our selection is *A Field Guide to Getting Lost* by Rebecca Solnit. Michelle Peterson and I wanted something more uplifting than depressing and more contemplative than a textbook. As usual, the books can be found and will be available one month before on Glen Ellyn library's second floor.

Although we cannot reserve audible versions, the library does offer three audible options: OverDrive (app is called Libby), Axis 360, and Hoopla. You can find more info about them here:

<https://gepl.org/tag/ebook/>

If you plan to listen to books on your phone or other device, you will need to download the app and log in with your library card number and pin. Brenna Murphy, my contact at the library, recommends starting with Hoopla - it's the easiest to use. If you get stuck, you can always stop by the second floor desk and they will walk you through it!

Submitted by Shawn Fasules, Book Club

Please Support our Local Advertisers. Ads Found Here.

November 11 - LWVGE Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, via Zoom

November 18 - Community Meeting in conjunction with LWV Wheaton, 7:00 pm, Author Rebecca Sive discussing her guide book to women in office, *Vote Her In*, via Zoom

December 2 - *Ten Thousand Villages* Shopping fundraiser 5:00-8:00 pm

New member orientation 6:00-7:00 pm

Holiday Gathering 6:30-8:30 pm

January 6 - Observer Corps Training, 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom

January 13 - LWVGE Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, via Zoom

January 20 - Annual State of the Village Community Meeting, details to come

January 22 - Book Club, 9:00 am, details to come.

February 5 - Annual Program Planning, details to come

Plans for events are subject to change. To avoid disappointment, please check the LWVGE website for final details.

Questions about League events? Get details here:

www.lwvge.org.

Please visit our website for the most current information.

PO Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

(630) 790-2237

(630) 347-0922

